



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

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HILDA L. SOLIS

SUPERVISOR, FIRST DISTRICT

November 3, 2015

Chairman Tom Wheeler
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn
Commissioner Ajit Pai
Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel
Commissioner Michael O'Rielly

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: Expanding Broadband Access

Dear Chairman and Commissioners:

I am writing to express my support to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to design a Broadband Lifeline program by reforming of the Universal Services Fund that ensures equitable support for all communities to help close the digital divide. When developing such a program, I strongly urge the FCC to create affordable high-speed internet options for low-income communities and that outreach programs are created to help residents navigate the internet with greater ease.

Today, having adequate internet connection is a must-have for school assignments, healthcare, communicating with friends, finding employment, and starting a business. While broadband service is now available to most Americans, too many communities still remain unconnected to data and internet networks. From one end, we need to deal with the costs associated with having internet access and computers. So the establishment of an affordable high-speed internet service plan for all low-income households with sufficient speeds and compatibility with school devices will be critical. However, addressing the cost alone will not help us fully solve the problem of the digital divide. Efforts must be made to help people build their digital literacy skills with the assistance of local community groups that focus on digital literacy issues. Therefore, the creation of an independent fund is needed to support community-based organizations, schools and libraries in assisting families with enrolling in broadband service programs. Lastly, I ask you to consider the development of an oversight body to ensure transparency and accountability with stakeholders and community leaders who are knowledgeable about broadband access and adoption.

When it comes to expanding broadband access, we are in a key position to enable full participation in the digital economy for everyone, regardless of income-level, age, or the

limitations of the technology available. Thank you for your leadership in this area; I look forward to working with you on this important issue

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Hilda L. Solis". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

HILDA L. SOLIS
Supervisor, First District